

The First Test

Acts 3

Background: Acts 3-4 describes what Jesus told his disciples would come and the person behind it all is Satan. (External, Internal)

God's gift - Acts 3:1-11

A certain place - Acts 3:1-3

A special gift - Acts 3:4-8

An amazing result - Acts 3:9-11

Summary: Is this gift still active today? (1 Corinthians 12:9-10a, 12:27-31) - Miracles are rarely the main point; rather they point to something else that is the main point.

Question: Can I see an opening to share the good news, to testify to the grace of God, to bring light where there has been darkness?

Peter's message - Acts 3:12-26

Peter deflects the glory - Acts 3:12-16

Peter presses them regarding the Messiah - Acts 3:17-26

When I repent God responds with forgiveness (Acts 5:31; 10:43; Ephesians 4:32).

Second, Peter reminds them that a time is coming that is more than personal forgiveness.

Peter presses them regarding Jesus as that Messiah—the Jews first (Acts 3:26) and they are rejecting Him.

The message from Peter was interrupted and he and John are arrested (Acts 4:3), but people responded.

Conclusion: Jesus did not warn his disciples about such threats—he told them that they were inevitable. (Matthew 10:34-39; 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 24:15-28) He would face them and as his servants they would face them. By application we should expect no less. (1 Peter 3:15, 18; 4:15-17; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 3:8-13)

We should note from Peter's sermons, Pentecost, the Gate Beautiful and his sermon before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8-12) a picture of Christ from the Old Testament. This is essential in helping Jews see Jesus.

In the midst of this blessing of words and Old Testament prophecy we are reminded by Paul that the door of salvation has been opened to the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1-6; Romans 8:37-39; Romans 11:33-36) Paul's calling was to the Gentiles but he could not walk away from his brothers, the Jews whom God had chosen beginning with Abraham.

Peter turns to three prophets of the Old Testament: Moses (Acts 3:22-23), Samuel (Acts 3:24) and Abraham (Acts 3:25) and each points to the Jews and each of these prophets was sent to "turn the Jews from their wickedness"—the first blessing. The other blessing is the gift of Christ righteousness, but first they must repent.